



"The history of California then becomes the story of successive waves of immigrants from the sixteenth century through modern times and the enduring marks each left on the character of the state. These immigrants include...Sikhs<sup>1</sup>, and other immigrants of the second half of the nineteenth century, who provided a new supply of labor for California's railroads, agriculture, and industry and contributed as entrepreneurs and innovators, especially in agriculture..."

*<sup>1</sup>Important to specify Sikhs here as all minority communities have the right to celebrate their heritage and contributions to California's history.*

## PRESERVE AND PROTECT SIKH HISTORY

Dear Instructional Quality Commission:

I understand that the History & Social Science Framework for California students is under review. To ensure the integrity of this process, and to guard against malicious efforts to rewrite our history, I respectfully request that the word "Sikh" not be replaced with "South Asian" and that the Framework reflect the following facts about our community:

Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, rejected the caste system.  
The rejection of the caste system is a core tenet of the Sikh religion.  
Sikh Americans have made unique contributions to the fabric of our state.

Respectfully,

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 THE SIKH COALITION  
the voice of a people  
[www.sikhcoalition.org](http://www.sikhcoalition.org)